

REMARKS

Claim 22 is amended herein. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, Examples 2 and 3. Accordingly, Claims 22 and 23 remain pending. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of enablement. The examiner asserts that the specification lacks the requisite examples showing diseases being treated by the claimed method. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Initially, Applicants note that Claim 22 does not claim a method for treating diseases. Rather, the method relates to generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15. The specification simply lists various conditions in which the generation of a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15 may be desired. This disclosure supports the utility for generating a neutralizing antibody response as claimed.

In order to further the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended Claim 22. More specifically, Claim 22 now relates to a method for generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15 in a primate. This generation of a neutralizing antibody response is shown in the examples which demonstrate neutralizing antibodies in monkeys' sera. More specifically, Example 2 demonstrates the increased level of anti-IL-15 antibodies in the monkeys' sera.

The cited prior art does not teach a method for generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15 to generate neutralizing self-antibodies against IL-15. Rather, Grabstein discloses that the administration of IL-15 was intended to stimulate T lymphocytes proliferation.

In contrast, Claim 22 relates to generating a neutralizing response, i.e., generating self-antibodies against IL-15. This neutralizing response would inhibit the activity of IL-15 as a

cytokine desired by Grabstein. The claimed neutralizing response is further demonstrated in Example 3 of the specification in which inhibition of IL-15 induced CTLL-2 proliferation was observed. Grabstein, on the other hand, demonstrates stimulation of CTLL-2 proliferation.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the specification is enabling for the novel method for generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15 in a primate.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If resolution of any remaining issue is required prior to allowance of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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